



## Thursday Volunteer Group

### Bedgebury National Pinetum

#### About Us

Forestry England is a part of the government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is tasked with the sustainable management of the Public Forest Estate for timber, recreation and wildlife.

Bedgebury National Pinetum is home to a world-leading collection of conifers. It is unique in the UK and of global significance for the purposes of species conservation, scientific advancement and the understanding of conifers. It is also a rich and biodiverse site providing habitat to a wealth of flora and fauna.

#### Role Description

Working as a small and dedicated team (5-6 members) our TG volunteers meet every Thursday and work independently to help maintain various sections of the pinetum. You will be guided by the pinetum tree team and led by the volunteer coordinator. This volunteer role provides an opportunity to learn new skills; to work to an agreed standard and follow a written programme of tasks; to work, on occasion, alongside the tree team and according to the pinetum landscape plan.

#### When?

- Every Thursday 09.30 - 14.30
- A commitment of at least 3 sessions per month

#### Typical tasks include

- Clearing scrub and weeds from around specimen trees
- Removal of saplings and regen
- Occasional maintenance of tree cages
- Collecting and applying mulch
- Helping to maintain waterways

Volunteers will not be required to use power tools.

#### We'd like you to

- Have horticulture or arboriculture experience in a similar environment
- Enjoy working as part of a team - either as a team member or team leader

- Be willing to follow guidelines on a written works programme
- Be willing to follow guidelines on health and safety, including risk assessments
- Undertake training for driving the volunteer ATV if required
- Undertake training for using a hand operated winch
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people
- Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from Forestry England staff
- Bring your own refreshments and lunch for the day

## We will provide

- A volunteer registration prior to taking up the role
- A volunteer induction, training and support
- Necessary tools, equipment, guidance, appropriate supervision for the tasks
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves, safety glasses, hand sanitiser etc.
- A volunteer t-shirt/name badge/water bottle
- Free vehicle admission on your volunteer day
- A free cup of tea or coffee from the café on your volunteer day
- A volunteer's membership for free admission to Bedgebury Pinetum throughout the year after 35 hours of regular volunteering (reviewed annually)
- A volunteers newsletter
- An invitation to annual events such as the 'Thank you' BBQ and other volunteer events

## Who to contact?

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please register your interest via our website [www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering-bedgebury](http://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering-bedgebury) or email [bedgebury@forestryengland.uk](mailto:bedgebury@forestryengland.uk) for more information.

## Further opportunities

For more information about volunteering at different Forestry England sites please visit our website [www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering](http://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering)

## Covid19

Please note that the most important thing is for Forestry England to keep the public, our staff and volunteers safe. We will be following government guidelines with regards to covid19 restrictions and will be asking you to agree to do the same when taking up any volunteering position with us.